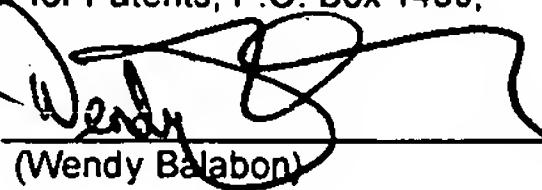


I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 664575485 US, on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: September 29, 2006

Signature:



(Wendy Balabon)

10/594912

Docket No.: 65765-0186

(PATENT)

IAP5 Rec'd PCT/PTO 29 SEP 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Norman Blank et al.

Application No.: National Phase of PCT/EP2005/051409 Confirmation No.: N/A

Int'l Filing Date: March 29, 2005 Art Unit: N/A

U.S. Serial No.: To Be Assigned Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed Concurrently Herewith

For: FASTENING ELEMENT FOR FASTENING TO
A BASE ELEMENT

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 27 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 32 of this paper.